

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display panel, comprising:

a first substrate;

a second substrate having a plurality of first areas and a plurality of second areas, wherein the first areas and the second areas are on a side of the second substrate facing the first substrate, and a surface of the second substrate is higher in the first areas than in the second areas;

a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a plurality of first protrusions disposed on the first substrate and substantially contacting the first areas of the second substrate for maintaining a first cell gap between the first and second substrates; and

a plurality of second protrusions disposed on the first substrate corresponding to the second areas of the second substrate, tops of the second protrusions separated from the second areas of the second substrate by a predetermined distance in such a manner that the second protrusions contact the second areas of the second substrate when the liquid crystal display panel is subjected to an external force to maintain a

second cell gap between the first and second substrates, the second cell gap being smaller than the first cell gap.

22. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first substrate is a color filter substrate and the second substrate is a thin film transistor substrate, wherein the liquid crystal display panel further comprises thin film transistor (TFT) devices formed in the first areas of the second substrate, and wherein the first protrusions contact the TFT devices formed in the first areas of the second substrate.

23. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first protrusions and the second protrusions have the same height.

24. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 21, wherein the predetermined distance between the second protrusions and the second areas of the second substrate is from about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

25. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first and second protrusions are made of the same material.

26. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 21, further comprising a plurality of third protrusions disposed on at least one of the first and second substrates for regulating orientation of the liquid crystal layer.

27. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display panel, comprising:  
a color filter substrate;  
a thin film transistor substrate having a plurality of first areas and a plurality of second areas, wherein the first areas and the second areas are on a side of the thin film transistor substrate facing the color substrate, and a surface of the thin film transistor substrate is higher in the first areas than in the second areas;  
a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate;  
a plurality of first protrusions disposed on the thin film transistor substrate in the first areas and substantially contacting the color filter substrate for maintaining a first cell gap between the color filter substrate and the thin film transistor substrate; and  
a plurality of second protrusions disposed on the thin film transistor substrate in the second areas, tops of the second protrusions separated from the color filter substrate by a predetermined distance in such a manner that the second protrusions contact the color filter substrate when the liquid crystal display panel is subjected to an external force to maintain a second cell gap between the color filter and thin film transistor substrates, the second cell gap being smaller than the first cell gap.

28. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 27, further comprising thin film transistor (TFT) devices in the first areas of the thin film transistor substrate.

29. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first protrusions and the second protrusions have the same height.

30. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 27, wherein the predetermined distance between the second protrusions and the color filter substrate is from about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

31. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 27, wherein the first and second protrusions are made of the same material.

32. (Previously presented) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 27, further comprising a plurality of third protrusions disposed on at least one of the color filter substrate and thin film transistor substrate for regulating orientation of the liquid crystal layer.

33. (New) A liquid crystal display panel, comprising:

a first substrate having a plurality of first areas and a plurality of second areas, wherein a surface of the first substrate has the same height in the first areas and in the second areas;

a second substrate having a plurality of first areas and a plurality of second areas, wherein the first areas and the second areas are on a side of the second substrate facing the first substrate, a surface of the second substrate is higher in the first areas than in the second areas, and the second areas of the second substrate correspond to the second areas of the first substrate;

a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between the first substrate and the second substrate;

a plurality of first protrusions disposed on the first areas of the first substrate and substantially contacting the first areas of the second substrate; and

a plurality of second protrusions disposed on the second areas of the first substrate, tops of the second protrusions being separated from the second areas of the second substrate by a predetermined distance.

34. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first substrate is a color filter substrate and the second substrate is a thin film transistor substrate;

the liquid crystal display panel further comprising thin film transistor (TFT) devices formed in the first areas of the second substrate, the first protrusions contacting the TFT devices formed in the first areas of the second substrate.

35. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first protrusions and the second protrusions have the same height.

36. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, wherein the predetermined distance between the second protrusions and the second areas of the second substrate is from about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 2  $\mu\text{m}$ .

37. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first and second protrusions are made of the same material.

38. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, wherein the first protrusions maintain a first cell gap between the first and second substrates.

39. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 38, wherein the second protrusions contact the second areas of the second substrate when the liquid crystal display panel is subjected to an external force to maintain a second cell gap between the first and second substrates, the second cell gap being smaller than the first cell gap.

40. (New) The liquid crystal display panel as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a plurality of third protrusions disposed on at least one of the first and second substrates for regulating orientation of the liquid crystal layer.